

4141-12th St.
Rock Island, IL 61201
June 13th

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Office of the Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner:

I am a fifteen-year-old **student** who is very concerned and active for the rights of animals. I am writing to help the **AAVS** (American Anti-Vivisection Society) accomplish an important **mission**- "to **educate** the public, **lobby** legislators to pass laws protecting **animals**, and help **provide non-animal alternative methods** to scientists and educators," Using animals for medical experiments, product testing, and education are extremely complex issues, but the **suffering** and waste involved in animal experimentation is painfully obvious; -

I have done considerable amounts of research into the exploitation and cruel treatment of animals, Besides the ethical objection towards this vicious inhuman conduct, there are serious scientific and health issues present as well. First off, vivisection has led us to countless scientific dead ends, while detracting attention and funds **from** more applicable scientific techniques. There are a number of alternatives available to modern researchers which are less expensive, more reliable, and ethically sound. Clinical and epidemiological studies are an enormous source of data. They have provided us with more useful information about the nature of disease in our world than any other source. We must ask ourselves.. and I ask you, Commissioner, why do we rely on the science of yesterday?

Secondly, vivisection produces inaccurate, dangerous results and wastes precious time and resources. Animal tests ARE NOT trustworthy indicators of what will occur in humans. The General Accounting Office reviewed the drugs marketed between 1976 and 1985. Of these, 52% were found to be more dangerous than pre-market animal studies had indicated, with adverse side effects including permanent disability and death. The undeniable fact is that different animals vary in their response to drugs. For example, the drug Fialuridine, designed to treat hepatitis, was shown to be safe in tests with dogs, woodchucks, monkeys, and other animals, but a number of fatalities resulted from pre-market clinical screening with humans. Also, **Penicillin**, is fatal to guinea pigs, but has saved countless human lives. (Information and facts were retrieved from "Point/Counterpoint" a brochure created by the AAVS) The list goes on and on. We must seek a greater understanding of the nature of the mechanisms of drugs on a cellular and molecular level if we are to have insights into the probable results. We must not be influenced with those in animal research and allow them to convince us that their outdated, fallacious methods will save the lives of my children, and the children of all human beings present and **future**.

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As a result of the context I have reviewed in my studies, such as the information and facts I have provided in this letter, I believe that you, the Commissioner, would be wise to accelerate FDA efforts to develop, validate, and accept humane alternatives. Please actively discourage **animal**-based testing by manufactures of cosmetics and personal care products.

In conclusion, I hope that you deeply consider my suggestion to boost and increase animal test alternatives. This is something I, along with many others, feel strongly about. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the AAVS, a non-profit animal advocacy organization. They will be happy to answer your questions or **further** explain any of the issues raised here. Please turn concern into action, as I have with this letter. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Seiz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katie Seiz

AAVS

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